

REMARKS

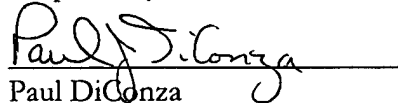
Applicants appreciate the consideration shown by the Office as evidenced by the Office Action mailed on June 4, 2003. In that Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-13, 17-22, 27, 29, 34-36, and 42-47, and objected to claims 14-16, 24-26, 28, 30-33, 37-41, and 48. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the application by the Examiner in light of the above amendments and the following remarks offered in response to the Office Action.

Applicants note with appreciation the Examiner's remarks that claims 14-16, 24-26, 28, 30-33, 37-41, and 48 recite allowable subject matter. Applicants have amended independent claim 1 to incorporate material from several of these allowable claims into the independent claims, and therefore submit that the independent claims and their remaining dependent claims are patentably distinct over all referenced prior art. Specifically, the limitations of claims 23, 24, and 26 have been incorporated into claim 1, and the limitations of claim 38 have been incorporated into claim 34. Amendments to certain other claims have been made to correct dependency and other informalities. No new matter has been added. Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration of these claims, which now recite material conceded by the Examiner to be allowable.

Applicants herein attach a terminal disclaimer to overcome the obviousness-type double patenting rejection of claims 1-13, 17-22, 27, 34-36, and 42-47.

In light of the amendments and remarks presented herein, Applicants submit that the case is in condition for immediate allowance and respectfully request such action. If, however, any issues remain unresolved, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Schenectady, New York
Thursday, September 04, 2003

Attachment: Terminal Disclaimer